

Hodgson Brook Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2005 from 4:30 -- 6:00 PM  
NH Community Technical College, Pease Campus

In attendance; Peter Britz, Doug DePorter, Sherry Godlewski, Steve Jones, Jennifer Kennedy, Natalie Landry, Barbara McMillan, Steve Miller, Julia Peterson, Ann Smith, Sally Soule, and Maria Stowell.

The HBAB reviewed and approved the minutes from the 6/28/05 HBAB meeting.

Sherry reported to the HBAB on her work accomplishments since the 6/28/05 meeting.

1. The water quality monitoring program was started. Testing has been done for Bacteria, seven data collection dates at eight sites, and for Chloride, 2 data collection dates at seven sites. Sherry went over the data that has been collected (see handouts) and discussed the events when the water quality exceeded the State surface water quality standards. The data show that the Brook exceeds the freshwater chronic criterion for salt (230 mg/l) for 9 of the 14 data points; and that during rain events the Bacteria data show a dramatic increase in Bacteria levels. What the data show is that there is a connection between land use and water quality.

At this point in the meeting Sherry asked for input from the HBAB on her involvement with development in the watershed. How involved should she be? How should she be involved? There are many development projects in the watershed. A general discussion included the suggestion to work through the City process and site review, and to develop "carrots/sticks" that can be used as incentives for developers to respond in a positive manner to our interest in restoration of the watershed. Questions were discussed about Sherry's time budget to deal with these development issues and whether she may need to re-prioritize efforts in this area as time allows. Working on development issues specifically, was not really part of the job description but an adaptive management approach was specifically put in her job description to allow for such efforts. The HBAB acknowledged the importance of doing this type of work. It was offered that HBAB members could help Sherry in these efforts. There followed a good discussion of involvement specifically regarding the redevelopment of the Meadowbrook site. The HBAB supported Sherry to continue working with the Meadowbrook project as a way to develop skills, and gain some successes here to position future work, and that the HBAB could reevaluate the efforts as the project and process unfolded. It was also suggested that this type of work could help pinpoint needs to provide specific education and technical assistance to Boards and developers.

Sherry continued with HB accomplishments:

2. Sherry worked with Amy Smagula of NHDES to complete an invasive species survey on one section of the Brook. They found 3 invasive species including Phragmites, Purple Loosestrife, and a Buckthorn. Amy suggested Sherry contact NHDES about introducing a Beetle to control the Purple Loosestrife. Sherry said she would find out more details regarding introducing the beetle, potential secondary effects, and permitting requirements if any. Sherry said more surveys will be done and invited all HBAB members to join.

3. Storm drain stenciling was done in the Pannaway Manor and Dennett Street areas of the watershed and was a very successful event. Participation included the NHDES, BOS, ANMP, UNHCE, City of Portsmouth, United Way Day of Caring, Newmarket International Volunteers, and New Franklin School students, chaperones and teachers. 105 storm drains were stenciled and

educational door hangers (see handout) were placed at 260 homes. A great deal of organization and logistics was required but it was a great event that received great press. This was Task 17 on Sherry's work plan and is now completed.

4. Sherry participated in the International Coastal Cleanup coordinated by BOS, with 322 students and 63 chaperones involved with the cleaning up beach. The project included educational programs for the participants.

The HBAB Chair and Membership discussion was delayed until next meeting. Upcoming events were announced as on the agenda.

At this point Mike Parsont, from NH Soil Consultants, presented to the HBAB a very preliminary plan for the redevelopment of the Meadowbrook site. Redevelopment will include three restaurants, a small hotel, and retail stores. Mike stated he expects to have a more detailed plan in a month or so. Plans are to incorporate as many LID techniques as possible into the site, and the developers want to work with this committee on the project, and expressed a desire to do something positive for the Brook. Including such options as incorporating some meanders back into the stream, restoring the flood plain, and doing some type of mitigation on the Brook.

The HBAB discussed the project with Mike and Owner Anthony Diloranzo. The discussion included questions about the water easement that runs through the site, stormwater treatment plans, LID techniques, plantings to enhance buffer, and pervious pavement. The HBAB discussed the project and gave some very preliminary suggestions to improve the project in regards to the Brook and water quality. There was a discussion on how to proceed with feed back and the process regarding the redevelopment. It was decided that Mike and Sherry would stay in communication and be the lead contacts.

The next meeting January 10, 2006 from 4:30-6:00.